

Cushing Trail currently exists as a paved asphalt trail between the corner of Cedarwood Rd/Utility Rd and Aberdeen. The trail has been paved for decades and is loosely maintained by the town of Scituate DPW; it is plowed in the winter and the sides of the trail are mowed in the spring and at the start of the school year. Within the past year or two, DPW has periodically patched small potholes along the trail.

At several locations, the asphalt appears to have washed away.



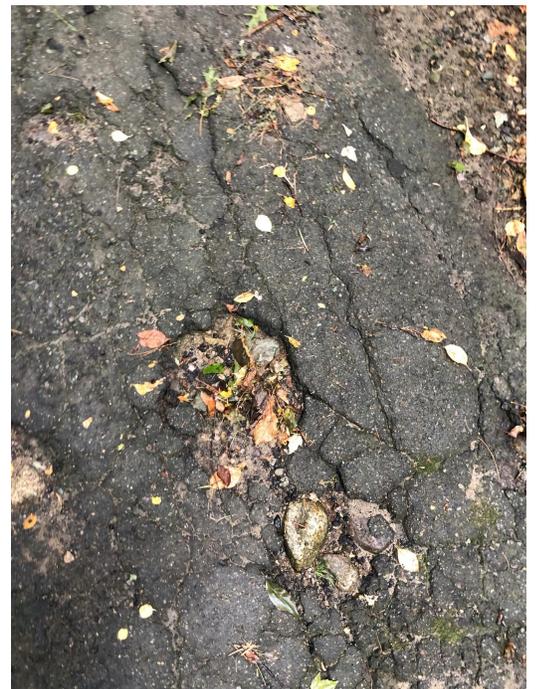
Despite a drainage culvert that runs underneath one section of the trail, it becomes very muddy with heavy rains and snow melt.



In other sections of the trail, rocks are protruding from the asphalt. Several of those rocks are partially covered by recent asphalt patches.



There are large sections of crumbling asphalt and potholes filled with rocks and weeds.



For children living in the neighborhood on the Cedarwood/Utility end and on neighboring First Parish Rd and Country Way, this trail provides safe passage to Cushing School, Gates and Scituate High School. It connects the two neighborhoods and also provides access (via a gate) to the sports complex located behind Scituate High School.

This path is a beautiful, shaded trail and provides a quiet place for walking, running, birdwatching and enjoying nature.

This trail is used by residents both young and old and ideally, its surface is flat, mitigates fall risks and provides the town of Scituate with a long-term, durable solution at a low cost. We are currently exploring options to either repair the current path or replace sections of it with a surface (wood or stone dust) which will minimize environmental contaminants to the wetland buffer zone.

As mentioned in the 2009 Open Space and Recreation plan, the Scituate [Sidewalk Study of 2007](#), and the updated [Scituate 2040 Master Plan](#), the town of Scituate has prioritized safe, pedestrian access to regularly traveled destinations. It is highly desirable to live within walking distance of schools and athletic fields. This is an opportunity for the town of Scituate to provide its residents with continued safe access to these destinations for years to come.